JDW: WxPost-CIA Coverage HW 1/27/76

Every once in a while I get the impression that the Post's non-coverage of CIA stories is angled to the interest of the "liberal" CIA wing. If you have a clear impression and have the time after comparing treatments for the past several days - with NYTimes'- I'd appreciate your opinion.

I mean news rather that editorial. Geyelin has a clear prejudice at least, the only surprising thing beings its high visibility on ed and oped pages.

I have to merely skim the paper rapidly these days, when I clip and lay the clips aside for rest periods of reading time Today I got an old story, this time the exceptional with the Post, credit to AP, undated, on the spooking at 3 colleges and the p. 1 on the recommendation to end DIA.

There was not much, I think not anything at all, in yesterday's Post, whereas radio and TV weekend coverage, unless I recall incorrectly, did carry several items, including this one of the colleges. There is, of course, the possibility that the Times had an exclusive leak of the House Report, but again I have the impression the Post was late picking it and the Jackson story up. If there is but a day's lag I have the wrong impression with a Times beat on a story.

What makes this more important is that what I've feared for a long time is about to become the reality, the approval of illegal acts in the guise of regulating them, and not by the CIA alone. And the agencies are using the current interest to unload enough to inure, to make the people insensitive to any further exposure and wrongdoing. The net result is to give them more power to do more wrong and in each case to influence national policy, foreign and domestic.

I don't recall how much of this has been in the carbons I've sent you but probably my real doubts came with the forming of the Rockefeller Commission. If not then certainly by the time the direction of the Church and House committees became clear.

Now, when anyone can wield a rubber stamp and we've forced out thousands of pages of documents illegally classified there is talk of a law making it criminal to leak or publish any classified document. A more perfect mechanism for suppression I can't imagine and it will make for more authoritarianism.

I have yet to see a classified document classified for any purpose related to national security. In virtually if not all cases, the real reason was to hide wrongdoing or avoid embarrassment.

Now it will be criminal, with this change, to expose wrongdoing.

Best,